seen a woman half so perfect or so complete. She has everything;: -• that is all I can say about her."[2]* Her name itself "suggests a halo; Claire de Cltre - an arch of light - a lighted window, the bright window through which the reader peers towards perfection."[55] Newman sees in her an image of refinement, but unfortunately for both, Claire finds herself helpless in the face of the evil which has a firm hold on her., Unable to reconcile herself to a life of evil and sin, she renounces the. world to become a Carmelite nan. Claire's life is yet another example of the helplessness of refinement in a hostile world of evil, corruption and moral ugliness. Like Newman, she also realises that the quality of refinement is not strained, and that it lies in giving, sacrificing ancf: renouncing.

The American is thus a study in the varying degrees and modes, of refinement. Refinement, according to James, does not mean a modification of the obstinate facts of life but the acquirement of a mode of seeing them and comprehending them. To know the relativity of good and evil and the shifting postures of the realities of human existence is to acquire that awareness of life which makes for refinement.

In *The .Europeans,* James reverses the international theme with the purpose of throwing light on the deficiencies in the American culture. Americans like Roderick Hudson, Rowland Mallet and New-man come to grief in Europe on account of their inadequate conscious-ness, which is a legacy from their culture. James deals with the limitations of the American attitude to life which cuts at the very roots of the individual's desire for, and experience of refinement. Ex-perience is the crucible in which the. process of refinement takes place, and the American's fear of opportunities for experience results in a warped and undeveloped sensibility, The refinement of an in-dividual's sensibility is possible only in a culture in which there are unlimited opportunities for the varying experiences of cultured life.

'Cloistered virtue' which is fostered by the Puritan American culture is no real virtue, in as much as it has not come to grips with, and triumphed over evil.

In *The Europeans,* James contrasts the American and the European attitudes to life. The Americans (the Wentworths) regard life as a discipline, and the Europeans (Eugenia and Felix) regard it as an .opportunity. The Wentworth? have money, liberty and a 'position',